Page 6, line 32, replace "cytosine (C)" with --guanine (G)--;

Page 6, line 33, replace "guanine (G)" with --cytosine (C)--;

Page 10, line 11, replace "cytosine (C) to guanine (G)" with --guanine (G) to cytosine (C)--;

Page 37, line 8, replace "C to G" with --G to C--;

Page 38, line 8, replace "1" with --2--;

Page 38, line 11, replace "2" with --1--;

NC Please replace Figure 2 with the replacement Figure 2 provided.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 9, 10, 34-36. Please add new claims 43 and 44, and cancel, without prejudice, claims 40 and 41. For the Examiner's convenience, all of the pending claims are set forth below.

1. A method for determining a subject's susceptibility to developing a disease or condition, which is caused by or contributed to by an inappropriately high level of IL-1β, comprising the steps of detecting an IL-1B allele (+6912) or an allele in linkage disequilibrium with an IL-1B allele (+6912) in a nucleic acid from the subject, wherein detection of IL-1B allele 2 (+6912) or an allele in linkage disequilibrium with IL-1B allele 2 (+6912) indicates that the patient has an increased susceptibility for developing a disease or condition, which is caused by or contributed to by an inappropriately high level of IL-1β.

2. A method of claim 1, wherein the disease or disorder is an inflammatory disease.

3. A method of claim 2, wherein said inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of: coronary artery disease, osteoporosis, nephropathy in diabetes mellitus, alopecia areata, Graves disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, lichen sclerosis, ulcerative colitis, diabetic retinopathy, periodontal disease, juvenile chronic arthritis (e.g. chronic iridocyclitis), psoriasis, insulin dependent diabetes in DR 3/4 patients, asthma, chronic inflammatory liver disease, chronic inflammatory lung disease, lung fibrosis, liver fibrosis, rheumatoid arthritis and ulcerative colitis.

4. A method of claim 1, wherein the IL-1B allele (+6912) is detected by hybridizing the nucleic acid sample with at least one detection oligonucleotide that contains 6 consecutive nucleotides selected from the group consisting of: 5' ATTAAC 3'; 5' TTAACA 3'; 5' TAACAC